

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SIL-01 PC-04 MC-02 OMB-01 NEA-10 SY-10 USSS-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 DOTE-00 OPR-02

OC-06 A-01 SCA-01 NIC-01 CCO-00 FBIE-00 SCS-03 CU-04

RSR-01 /158 W

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O R 151825Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5196

INFO :DOD/DIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, MILI, ELAB

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSUMES MAJOR ROLE IN TRUCK STRIKE

REF: SANTIAGO 3604

1. SUMMARY. GOVT ISSUED BACK-TO-WORK ORDER FOR STRIKING TRUCKERS, APPOINTED MILITARY INTERVENTORS IN ALL PROVINCES, AND REMOVED JAIME FAIVOVICH AS NATIONAL TRUCK INTERVENTOR. HE STAYS AS UNDER SEC. TRANSPORTATION, HOWEVER, IN WAKE OF AUG. 13 BLACKOUT, GOVT. ANNOUNCED INTENSIFIED ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES. UP SPOKESMEN CLAIMED CIA INVOLVED WITH RIGHTIST TERRORISM. PS SEC. GEN. CARLOS ALTAMIRANO CALLED FOR FORMATION OF A "NEW STATE" BASED ON PEOPLES POWER ORGANIZATIONS. IR AND OPPOSITION GROUPS ISSUED STATEMENTS SPECULATING ON REAL ROLE OF MILITARY MINISTERS IN CABINET. END SUMMARY.

2. GOVT AUG 14 ISSUED BACK-TO-WORK ORDER FOR STRIKING TRUCKERS

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AND APPOINTED 27 PROVINCIAL-LEVEL MILITARY INTERVENTORS. GOVT.

STATED INTERVENTORS HAVE FULL POWERS AND ARE INSTRUCTED TO GET TRUCKS MOVING WITHIN 24 HOURS, HOPEFULLY THROUGHT TALKS WITH STRIKERS BUT BY ATTACHING TRUCKS IF NECESSARY. SIMULTANEOUSLY, RESIGNATION OF JAIME FAIVOVICH AS NATIONAL TRUCK INTERVENTOR WAS ANNOUNCED; FAIVOIVICH WILL REMAIN AS UNDER SEC. TRANSPORTAION, HOWEVER. PDC DEPUTIES ANNOUNCED FAIVOVICH IS NOW PERSONA NON GRATA AS FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED. DURING PRESS CONF ANNOUNCING THESE MEASURES, MININTERIOR LETELIER REPLIED TO RUMORS THAT GEN. RUIZ WILL RESIGN AS MIN PUBLIC WORKS WITH COMMENT THAT RUIZ HAD "NO REASON" TO DO SO AND THEREFORE RESIGNATION WAS UNLIKELY. TRUCKERS, MEANWHILE, ANNOUNCED THAT THEIR STRIKE WILL CONTINUE AND THAT FAIVOVICH MUST BE REMOVED FROM ALL TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES. GOVT. DECLARED IT IS FILING CHARGES UNDER INTERNAL SECURITY LAW AGAINST VILARIN AND OTHER TRUCK LEADERS. VILARIN RESPONDED TO ALLENDE'S INTERRUPTED SPEECH OF AUG 13 (REFTEL) WITH AD IN OPPOSITION PRESS WHICH BLAMED PRESIDENT FOR PRESENT STATE OF "TERROR AND CHAOS" IN OTHER STRIKE DEVELOPMENTS, SMALL INDUSTRY CONFEDERATION (CONUPIA) ANNOUNCED ITS MEMBERS IN NINE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES WERE ON STRIKE IN SOLIDARITY WITH TRUCKERS. DRIVERS ON 32 PRIVATE BUS LINES IN SANTIAGO DECLARED STRIKE, NOT ON SECURITY QUESTIONS AS BEFORE BUT ON VARIOUS BARAD- AND-BUTTER ISSUES. TODAY IS CHILEAN HOLIDAY, SO DIFFICULT TO GAUGE ENTENT OF STRIKE; SOME PRIVATE BUSES ARE OPERATING. STRIKING DENTISTS IN VALPARAISO, ACONCAGUA, AND COQUIMBO PROVINCES REPEATED THEIR DEMAND FOR NATIONWIDE DENTISTS STRIKE.

3. AT END OF AUG. 14 CABINET MEETING, GOVT. ISSUED STATEMENT DENOUNCING "EXTREME SERIOUSNESS" OF AUG 13 BLACKOUT, CLAIMING THAT, IF TOTAL SUBVERSIVE PLAN HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT, CHILEAN ECONOMY COULD HAVE BEEN PARALYZED FOR A MONTH. STATEMENT ANNOUNCED INTENSIFIED SECURITY MEASURES AT KEY PUBLIC UTILITIES, REPORTED INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE TO "REPRESS" PATRIA Y LIBERTAD AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS, ANNOUNCED MIN. JUSTICE IS DRAFTING AN ANTI-TERRORISM LAW BASED ON EXECUTIVE BILL SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS IN WAKE OF PEREZ ZUJOVIC ASSASSINATION JUNE 1971, AND NOTED MIN INTERIOR WILL FILE SECURITY CHARGES AGAINST MEDIA WHICH "ENCOURAGE TERRORIST ACTS IN ANY FORM". STATEMENT ALSO REPORTED GOVT. IS TUDYING POSSIBLE EXPROPRIATION OF NON-OPERATING BUSES AND TRUCKS, ANNOUNCED CUT HAD BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE ININTER-MINISTERIAL "OPERATIONS COMMAND" REGARDING STRIKE, AND STATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITARY INTERVENTOR HAD BEEN ORDERED TO BEGIN THEIR ACTIVITIES IMMEDIATELY. MEANWHILE, GOVT. ENDESA ELECTRICITY AGENCY REPORTED THAT AUG 13 BLACKOUT WAS CAUSED BY DYNAMITING OF ONE OR MORE TOWERS ON THREE KEY POWER TRANSMISSION LINES, LEAVING CENTRAL CHILE WITH DEFICIT OF 50,000 KILOWATTS UNTIL REPAIRED. LETELIER, OTHER GOVT. SPOKESMEN, MIR, AND UP MEDIA ALL BLAMED P Y L FOR ATTACK; SEVERAL UP SPOKESMEN CHARGED CIA WAS ALSO INVOLVED THROUGH ASSOCIATION WITH P Y L ACTIVITIES. CLARIN TODAY REPORTED

PS DEPUTY MARIO PALESTRO HAD INTRODUCED RESOLUTION IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES TO EXPEL AMB DAVIS AND "THE THOUSANDS" OF OTHER US OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES; HOWEVER, AP CORRESPONDENT TOLD US NO SUCH RESOLUTION HAS YET BEEN INTRODUCED.

4. ADDITIONAL SCATTERED TERRORIST INCIDENTS CONTINUED, INCLUDING BOMB IN ECA OFFICE (GOVT AGENCY) IN TALCA. THREE MIR MEMBERS WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN VALPARAISO AREA AND CHARGED WITH PLOTTING TERRORIST ACTS. ALLEGED LEFTIST SABINO ROMERO HAS BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED WITH INVOLVEMENT IN CURICO PIPELINE EXPLOSION, BUT UP PRESS CLAIMED HE WAS REALLY ONLY AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER AND RIGHTISTS WERE ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE. COICIALST PARTY ISSUED ANGRY DENUNCIATION OF BOMBING OF PS LEADER ARIEL ULLOA'S CAR, VOWING TO PREVENT FURTHER ATTACKS ON UP LEADERS. MARINES SEARCHED AN APARTMENT IN CONCEPCION BELONGING TO ALLEGED MIR MEMBER PURPORTEDLY USED AS MEETING PLACE FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN TALCAHUANO NAVAL SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. UP MEDIA LOUDLY PROCLAIMED THAT TRIGGERMAN WHO KILLED PRESIDENTIAL NAVAL AIDE ARAYA WAS KNOWN RIGHTIST RENE GUILLERMO CLAVERIE BARBET WHO IS STILL A FUGITIVE; ONE MORE PERSON SURRENDERED IN CASE AND IS BEING QUESTIONED. (SEE SEPTEL RE BOMBS FOUND AT 3 EMBASSY OFFICERS' HOMES.)

5. PS SEC GEN SEN CARLOS ALTAMIRANO, SPEAKING TO CORDON CERRILLOS WORKERS AUG 14, CALLED FOR STRONG GOVT ACTION IN ECONOMIC FIELD, ESPECIALLY RAPID EXPANSION OF GOVT CONTROLLED SECTOR OF ECONOMY AND DESTRUCTION OF ECONOMIC POWER OF "THE BOSSES". HEARTILY ENDORSING PEOPLES POWER (PODER POPULAR), ALTAMIRANO CLAIMED CHILE MUST FORM A "NEW STATE" BASED ON GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS LED BY WORKING CLASS.

6. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES REJECTED IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST FORMER MIN INTERIOR BRIONES BY 48-21 VOTE. UP AND PDC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPOSED, PN VOTED IN FAOR.

7. MIR ISSUED STATEMENT DENOUNCING "REFORMISTS" FOR AL
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA03626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Reference: SANTIAGO 3604
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review History: RELEASED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSUMES MAJOR ROLE IN TRUCK STRIKE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, ELAB, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005